

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Springs Window Fashions

Mid-Pennsylvania Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Springs Window Fashions Sets A Lean Trend

Client Profile:

Springs Window Fashions is a large manufacturer of window covering products for domestic and commercial use. The company is located in Montgomery, Pennsylvania and employs less than 500 people.

Situation:

Springs Window Fashions requested training in lean manufacturing from the Mid-Pennsylvania Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MPMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate. The company wanted to empower key associates who could train and develop all of Spring Window Fashions associates. Springs Window Fashions' wanted to maintain its competitive market position and flexibility, and improve its rate of on-time shipments while decreasing inventory and reducing costs. The company felt that implementing a lean program would help it accomplish these goals.

Solution:

MANTEC and IMC, the two divisions of MPMEP, conducted 14 Lean 101 manufacturing simulation workshops on-site at Springs Window Fashions. Approximately 20 company employees participated in each workshop. MPMEP introduced selected employees to the principles of lean manufacturing in a full one-day session. These 20 employees gained knowledge and experience in the benefits of lean manufacturing; they, in turn, created a plant-wide awareness of how to implement lean principles. Employees participated in brainstorming sessions and developed lists of ideas for improvements in their functional work areas.

Results:

Trained company employees in the basics of lean manufacturing.
Provided in-depth training to key employees who will spearhead lean improvements at the facility.
Began preparing ideas for lean implementation projects.

Testimonial:

"The Lean 101 training has been well received by our associates and has heightened their awareness of value added processes. Those who have attended were interviewed by the Quality Leadership Teams for ideas and recommended action plans. In many cases, the same people became part of the teams to

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implement the recommendations. [The Mid-Pennsylvania Manufacturing Extension Partnership and] Lean 101 gave us a lead into our now-successful 5S process."

Lillian McDermott, Human Resources Manager